

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 6, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 585

Introduced by Assembly Member Fox

February 20, 2013

An act to add and repeal Section 713 of *to* the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans, and making an appropriation therefor *veterans*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 585, as amended, Fox. ~~Homeless veterans' assistance pilot program.~~ *Department of Veterans Affairs: use of real property.*

Under existing law, the Department of Veterans Affairs has specified powers and duties relating to various programs serving veterans, including establishing housing projects. Existing law requires the department to include specified information in its strategic plan related to homeless veterans. *The department constitutes a public corporation that is authorized to hold property on behalf of the state.*

This bill would establish, until January 1, 2018, the Homeless Veterans' Housing Assistance Pilot Program, in up to 4 counties that agree to participate. The bill would provide that the pilot program would be administered at the state level by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, and would prescribe the department's responsibilities in this regard. This bill would require the department to provide \$100,000 to each county for purposes of the pilot program, from which the county would provide a monthly stipend of \$500 to eligible homeless veterans. The bill would appropriate \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the Homeless Veterans' Housing Assistance Fund, which the bill would

~~create, for purposes of the pilot program, require the department, by January 1, 2015, to develop a master plan for the use of unused or underutilized real property owned by the department, for purposes that will benefit California veterans, as specified, and to make a preferred recommendation for use of the property.~~

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$ -majority. Appropriation: ~~yes~~-no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. *Section 713 is added to the Military and Veterans*
2 *Code, to read:*

3 713. *By January 1, 2015, the department shall develop a master*
4 *plan for the use of unused or underutilized real property owned*
5 *by the department, including property on or near the premises of*
6 *existing department facilities, for purposes that will benefit*
7 *California veterans. The plan shall include an evaluation of use*
8 *options, and make a preferred recommendation for use of the*
9 *property, including, but not limited to, the following services for*
10 *veterans:*

11 (i) *Housing.*

12 (ii) *Supportive services.*

13 (iii) *Health care and mental health care.*

14 SECTION 1. ~~Section 713 is added to the Military and Veterans~~
15 ~~Code, to read:~~

16 713. ~~(a) This section shall be known, and may be cited, as the~~
17 ~~Homeless Veterans' Housing Assistance Pilot Program.~~

18 ~~(b) The department in consultation with the Department of~~
19 ~~Housing and Community Development, shall establish a four-year~~
20 ~~pilot program in up to four counties, to provide assistance to~~
21 ~~homeless veterans as provided in this section. Under the program,~~
22 ~~each county that agrees to participate in the program shall provide~~
23 ~~a monthly housing stipend of five hundred dollars (\$500) to eligible~~
24 ~~veterans identified by the county.~~

25 ~~(c) The department shall serve as the lead agency for the pilot~~
26 ~~program. The department's responsibilities shall include, but shall~~
27 ~~not be limited to, all of the following:~~

28 ~~(1) Development of criteria for the selection of the pilot program~~
29 ~~counties.~~

1 ~~(2) Selection of the pilot program counties to participate in the~~
2 ~~pilot program.~~

3 ~~(3) Providing, or arranging for, technical assistance to~~
4 ~~participating counties.~~

5 ~~(4) Development of specific performance outcome measures~~
6 ~~by which the program can be evaluated.~~

7 ~~(d) (1) The sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is hereby~~
8 ~~appropriated from the General Fund to the Homeless Veterans'~~
9 ~~Housing Assistance Fund, which is hereby created, to implement~~
10 ~~the pilot program created by this section. Moneys in the fund shall~~
11 ~~be allocated by the department as provided in paragraph (2).~~

12 ~~(2) Of the funds appropriated pursuant to this section, one~~
13 ~~hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) shall be allocated to each~~
14 ~~participating county for the purposes of providing the housing~~
15 ~~stipend described in subdivision (b).~~

16 ~~(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2018,~~
17 ~~and as of that date is repealed.~~